



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,869	12/12/2001	Simon Blair Dobson	60130-1294/00MRA0564	6697
26096 7590 08/08/2007 CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C. 400 WEST MAPLE ROAD SUITE 350 BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009			EXAMINER REDMAN, JERRY E	
			ART UNIT 3634	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/08/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****U.S. Patent and Trademark Office**

Address : COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
10020869	12/12/2001	DOBSON, SIMON BLAIR	60130-1294/00MRA0564

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.  
400 WEST MAPLE ROAD  
SUITE 350  
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

**EXAMINER**

Jerry Redman

ART UNIT	PAPER
3634	20070806

DATE MAILED:

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**


**Commissioner for Patents**

The reply brief dated 4/27/2007 has been noted by the Examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry Redman whose telephone number is 571-272-6835. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Glessner, can be reached on 571-272-8300. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
**Jerry Redman**  
**Primary Examiner**

Jerry Redman  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3634

Serial No. 10/020,869  
60130-1294; 00MRA0564**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****APR 27 2007**

Appellant: Dobson  
Serial No.: 10/020,869  
Filed: December 12, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 3634  
Examiner: Redman, Jerry E.  
Title: VEHICLE DOOR

Mail Stop Appeal Brief- Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**REPLY BRIEF**

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to the Examiner's Answer mailed March 21, 2007. The Examiner's Answer raises one argument which require some brief response.

**ARGUMENTS****The panel of Queveau is not waterproof**

NOTED.  
8/6/2007

The claimed invention recites that an entire trim panel is waterproof and defines a waterproof barrier between a wet space and a dry space. The Examiner states that the panel 4 of Queveau is formed from a synthetic material, and is therefore "waterproof." The Examiner appears to be arguing that the panel 4 is waterproof as it is made of a material that is waterproof. However, the panel 4 of Queveau includes a hole 44 and openings that receive grills 61 and 93. Even if the panel 4 is made of a material that is waterproof per se, the existence of the hole 44 and the openings prevent the panel 4 from being waterproof. Appellant is not claiming that the material of the panel 4 is waterproof, but that the entire panel 4 is waterproof.

For example, if a bucket is made of a waterproof material but includes a hole in the bottom, the water would leak from the bucket. Therefore, the entire bucket is not waterproof, even though it is made of a waterproof material.